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DOVER RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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HEALTH  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1955

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C.F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Councillor W.E. Hollis (Chairman)

## Councillors

Miss S.D. Crocker	Mrs E.A. Manley
W.H. Archbold	J. Collard
L.O. Duncan	W.H. Fish, J.P.
W.E. Gascoine	K.J. Madge, J.P.
N.W.S. Mitchison	J.C. Robertson
H.E. Russell, J.F.	A.C. Simcox
R.M. Voce	A.U. Whitworth, M.P.S.
P.E. Wootton	C.D. Young, O.B.E.

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## OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Clerk to the Authority:

W. Wilmott

Medical Officer of Health:

C.F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

W.O. Armstrong, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

E.W.G. Rathmell, M.S.I.A. (to September, 1955)  
F.G. Ward, M.S.I.A., R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., (from December, 1955)

Clerical Assistant:

Miss D. Baldwin.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BROOK HOUSE,

DOVER.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for the year 1955.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 13,000. The birth rate after adjustment for comparative purposes was 16.9 per 1,000 of the population and the death rate was 8.9. Both these figures compare very favourably with the corresponding rates for England and Wales which were 15.0 and 11.7 respectively.

The infant mortality rate on the other hand was much less favourable and showed a steep rise which, even though isolated, is unusual for the Rural area.

Actually there were 10 infant deaths during the year, giving a mortality rate of 59.1 per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 24.9 for England and Wales as a whole.

In all but three of the cases, death occurred in the first month of life and in all but two of these the certified cause of death was prematurity. In at least half the cases, therefore, factors leading to the infants' deaths were operative during the ante-natal period.

It is of interest to note also that four out of the ten deaths occurred in military families and it is not unreasonable to suppose that for many such families the less settled conditions of service life must, to some extent, affect the regularity and continuity of supervision by the Maternity and Child Welfare Services normally available.

Apart from the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough during the year there were no epidemics of notifiable infectious disease. Four cases of poliomyelitis occurred, however, in two family incidents, six months apart. The pattern of disease was the same but the source of infection different in the two incidents. There were two children in each family and both were affected, one having paralytic disease and one non-paralytic. Each made a satisfactory recovery.

Housing and general sanitation continued to receive special attention and as a further contribution towards meeting the housing needs of the area thirty-four new houses were completed by the Council and forty five by private enterprise.

I wish to record my appreciation of the support afforded by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee in the work throughout the year. I am indebted also to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the data supplied for inclusion in this report.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.F. LYNCH,

June, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health.





## S E C T I O N   A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Alkham, Capel le Ferne, Coldred, Denton, Guston, Hougham, East Langdon, West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25,797 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population 13,000

(b) 1951 Census figures 10,504

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of 13,000).

Number of Dwellings, 3,440

Rateable Value, £92,258.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £365 10s. 9d.

Density of population - Persons per acre, 0.5.

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### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

#### 1. BIRTHS:

##### (a) Registered Live Births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	79	86	165
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	80	89	169

Comparability Factor = 1.30

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.00
Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	12.69
Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated population	0.31
Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes	16.90

##### (b) Stillbirths:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths)	23.12
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## 2. DEATHS:

	Male	Female	Total
Registered	68	63	131

Comparability Factor = 0.89

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.08
Adjusted for comparative purposes	8.97

NOTE:- Comparability Factors are factors derived by the Registrar General from the final 1951 Census populations in order to make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distributions of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. After multiplying the crude birth and death rates for the area by this comparability factor, the rates so adjusted are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for other areas.

## 3. INFANT MORTALITY: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	59.18
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## 4. SPECIALLY RECORDED DEATHS:

Cancer (all ages)	23
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

## 5. CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955:

<u>Causes of Death</u>	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	6	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	10	18
Coronary disease, angina	12	6	18
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	12	10	22
Other circulatory disease	4	4	8
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	7	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
Homicide	-	1	1
	<u>68</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>131</u>



## 6. COMPARATIVE RATES:

	Dover Rural District		England and
	1954	1955	Wales
	(per 1,000 Home Population)		1955
<hr/>			
BIRTHS:			
Live Births Crude:	14.02	13.00	15.0
Live Births Adjusted:	16.40	16.90	-
Still Births	0.34	0.31	0.36
DEATHS:			
Crude:	11.72	10.08	11.7
Adjusted:	9.49	8.97	-
DEATHS: (per 1,000 Live Births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	6.06	59.18	24.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)			
All Causes	-	-	0.64

## S E C T I O N   B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the Local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water, etc., are carried out.

#### Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District and three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

#### Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides this service in the Rural area.

#### Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of venereal disease.





## S E C T I O N C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supply

Some 97% approximately of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district fourteen are supplied by the Mid Kent Water Company and two by the Folkestone Waterworks Company. Work to supply a small area at Alkham with a main water supply was completed.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

There is one main sewerage system in operation in the area, serving part of Temple Ewell, otherwise sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on main drainage	123
Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	2,583
Number of pail and chemical closets	734

The scheme to extend the sewer to the rest of the village of Temple Ewell was approved in principle by the Ministry, and the Council was waiting for permission to go to tender.

Work on the main sewerage system for Capel le Ferne was commenced on the 16th November.

#### Scavenging

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

#### Salvage

This is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who reports on the year's work as follows:

Weights of material collected	64 tons 15 cwt.
Amount received for the material	£549.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

- (1) Number of inspections made during the year, 1,473.
- (2) Number of notices served, Informal, 114.

Drainage:	
Reconstructed	9
Cesspools:	
Emptied	1,727

#### Shops Act, 1950

Regular inspections of shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation. No formal action was necessary.





## Factories Act, 1937

### (i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	22
Without mechanical power	13
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	3
	<u>43</u>

### (ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspect- ions	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	37	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	28	-	-
Other premises	6	-	-
	71	-	-

### (iii) Defects:

Particulars	Number of Defects				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	
Want of Clean- liness	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences:- Unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	1	-
	1	2	-	1	-

### Verminous Premises

Seven complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

### Destruction of Rats and Mice

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

#### Number of infestations found:

Rats, Major	13
Rats, Minor	203
Mice, Major	-
Mice, Minor	32

#### Estimated kill:

Rats	1,227
Mice	150

#### Number of bodies found:

Rats	586
Mice	82



## Camping Sites

There are eight sites registered in the district for the summer months only, viz Capel le Ferne five, Hougham two and Martin Mill one. These are kept under regular supervision.

## S E C T I O N D

### HOUSING

In view of Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 which states that quarterly housing returns now rendered will provide all the information necessary for Departmental purposes, certain details on housing matters previously included in this report are now discontinued.

During the year eighty three dwelling houses were inspected for housing defects, one hundred and forty seven inspections being made for the purpose. Proposals for dealing with thirty seven houses as unfit were submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government under Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In connection with improvement grants, three schemes for conversion and twenty for improvement were formally approved and accepted. Total costs amounted to £15,903 and the costs on which grants were made amounted to £10,860. Two applications were later withdrawn.

Thirty four new houses were completed by the Council during the year and forty five by private enterprise. Thirty five were also under construction by private enterprise at the end of the year.

## S E C T I O N E

### INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk

During the year regular visits were made to all registered premises.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	6
(b) Number of Registered Dairies	1

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations -

Dealer's Pasteurised	8
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	8

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955

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The above Order came into force in this area on the 6th December, and it is now illegal for any person to sell by retail for human consumption any milk other than milk which may be sold as specially designated milk in accordance with the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 - 1954 or the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953, and all retailers selling milk in this specified area (whether or not their premises are situated in this area) will need to be licensed by the appropriate licensing authority to use a special designation in relation to the milk sold.



### Meat and Other Foods

Regular inspections of all food shops, butchers premises and bakehouses, etc., were made.

### Foodstuffs condemned during 1955

Canned Goods - 53 tins.  
198 lbs. beef.

### Ice Cream

Thirty four premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

### Food Poisoning

Three notifications of food poisoning, occurring in two female adults and one male child, all members of one family, were received. All the patients having recovered at the time of investigation, faeces specimens were unobtainable and the causative agent was not identified. No particular article of food was suspected by the patients or by the notifying doctor, and infection was probably transmitted from the child to the female adults, the father of the family being unaffected.



# SECTION F

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### 1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1955 - By Age Groups (Corrected)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Para.)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Para.)	Food Poisoning
Age Unknown	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1 year	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	6	15	-	-	1	-	-
2 - 3 years	4	20	-	-	1	-	1
3 - 4 years	11	22	-	-	-	1	-
4 - 5 years	8	21	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 10 years	18	116	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 years	5	18	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 - 35 years	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
	56	217	2	5	2	2	3
Admitted to Hospital	4	2	-	1	2	2	-
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population	4.31	16.69	.15	.38	.15	.15	.23







## 2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued throughout the year under the administration of the Kent County Council and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:-

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1955, received:-

(a) Primary Inoculations	138
(b) Reinforcing Inoculations	116

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date:-

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>From 5 - 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1951 - 1955	522	944	1,466
1950 or earlier	-	328	328

## 3. Vaccination

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health the following information has been furnished in regard to the vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1955:-

	Age at 31st December, 1955:				
	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-4 years</u>	<u>5-14 years</u>	<u>15 and over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	71	46	4	6	127
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	4	19	23

## 4. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
(a) Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1955.	57	48	17	19
(b) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year.	4	1	-	2
(c) Restored to Register	-	-	-	-
(d) Added to Register other wise than by formal notification.	2	5	-	-
(e) Cases removed from Register during year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases).	7	6	-	1
(f) Cases on Register at end of 1955.	56	48	17	20

During the year there were no deaths of un-notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis relating to residents within the district.



Analysis of new cases notified in 1955

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 -	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	1
15 -	1	1	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-
65 -	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	4	1	-	2

ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1955 OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER:

Number of deaths - One.

Details: Male, aged 44 years, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

Disinfection

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant, and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

During the year two batches of clothing were dealt with in this manner.

Number of premises disinfected - 4.





